

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 13, 2019

Dear Parishioners,

All were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. (Luke 3:15)



The people who had come to hear John the Baptist were expecting something explosive. A prophet had arisen who would denounce all the enemies, all the “bad guys” who made life hard for everyone else. Maybe he was the Christ, the Messiah, come to cast out the Romans and their henchmen and restore Israel to its former glory.

But then came Jesus. A small-town carpenter who spent his time with the powerless and the sinful. The Spirit came upon him instead—not a fiery preacher calling out people’s sins, but a humble man preaching love of enemies. Surely people were caught off guard.

Jesus came “to open the eyes of the blind,” not to cast the bad guys into hell (Isaiah 42:7). He came “to bring out prisoners from confinement,” not to punish people for their sins (42:7). He came to take away our sins so that we could learn to love one another—good guy and bad guy alike.

When you hear this reading today, close your eyes and picture the scene. Picture John immersing Jesus into the Jordan River—a river that had received the sins of all who had come for baptism. Imagine Jesus accepting all of those sins and every sin that they represent.

For the next three years, Jesus will bear these sins, along with the sins of everyone else he comes into contact with. And still bearing those sins, he will teach us about his Father’s mercy, heal us from the wounds of sin, and deliver us from whatever hatred and bitterness is stored up in our hearts. Then he will take all that sin, hatred, and bitterness to the cross, where he will put it to death forever.

Today is the beginning of salvation for you and for everyone else, good guy and bad guy alike. So rejoice in this salvation and ask Jesus to help you love as he loves. Ask him to help you love everyone.

“Praise to you, Jesus, for taking all my sins!”

Deacon Mark Race, Administrator

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	January 12
5:15 PM	Soul of Wellington Ferguson
Sunday	January 13
8:00 AM	Intention of Maria Kim
10:00 AM	Intention of all Parishioners
12:15 PM	Soul of Gwen Harmon
Saturday	January 19
5:15 PM	Intention of all Parishioners
Sunday	January 20
10:00 AM	Soul of Yula Wilkes

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Is 40:1-11, Ps 104:1b-25, Lk 3:15-22
Monday	Heb 1:1-6, Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday	Heb 2:5-12, Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday	Heb 2:14-18, Mk 1:29-39
Thursday	Heb 3:7-14, Mk 1:40-45
Friday	Heb 4:1-11, Mk 2:1-12
Saturday	Heb 4:12-16, Mk 2:13-17
Sunday	Is 62:1-5, Ps 96:1-10, Jn 2:1-11

WEEKLY OFFERING

January 6, 2019

\$4,653.00 Tithe and Offering
70.00 Building Fund
21.00 "We Care"



Men, Mark Your Calendars

Transfiguration Annual Retreat for men will be held at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center on the weekend of January 18, 19, and 20 2019. Join your fellow parishioners for this weekend of spiritual enrichment and growth. The Passionist retreat team offer inspirational talks on the theme, as well as time for quiet prayer, Mass, Confession and Stations of the Cross. You may arrive as early as 3:00 PM on Friday. Our retreat opens at 5:45 PM with a buffet supper and closes Sunday after lunch about 12:30 PM. **A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your weekend Retreat, this time is reserved for you.**

This year's Retreat theme:

"Be Not Anxious! Living in the Peace of Christ"

For more information or to make your reservation please call Greg Warner retreat Captain at 323.974.7405 or 310.538.2214.

Please Note:

UP-COMING MEETINGS HAS BEEN CANCELED

The Central District of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (**ACCW**) Meeting is canceled on **Friday, January 18, 2019.**

AND

St. Vincent DePaul Meeting is canceled on **Saturday, January 19, 2019.**

Did you know?

Strive to be a 'safe adult' in a child's life

One of the most common responses to stories from abuse victims who suffered in silence for years is, "Why did you wait so long?" For many children, they wait because they have no one they trust to talk to about what's happening to them. Many victims feel ashamed and guilty. Take steps to become a trusted adult to the children in your life. Tell them you will listen without judgment or punishment, even if they are scared to talk about something.

For a copy of the complete VIRTUS® article, "Safe Adults: What to Say and Do," visit <http://www.la-archdiocese.org/org/protecting/Pages/VIRTUS-Current-Online-Articles.aspx>.

Virtus Certification Training

To comply with the Archdiocese's Safeguard the Children Program, "All parish and school staff/volunteers who are alone with a child or young person or who have supervisory control over a child or young person" is required to attend a Virtus Training session. St. Augustine, 3850 Jasmine Ave, Culver City will hold a Certification training on Thursday, January 17, 2019 from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. The session lasts 3 hours. Latecomers to the trainings will not be admitted. No one under 18 years old will be admitted. Please call the 310.838.3144 reserve a place.

2019 Calendars are available in the church sacristy for a donation of \$2. Thank you for your support.

Pray for our sick...

LaVerne Agnew, Cyd Michelle Anderson, Sidney Anderson, Brian Argusta, Rose Ball, Percenia Beasley, Fr. Emile Belletty, Sister Juliet Berber, Glenda Brown, Vivian Burgess, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Sister Cecilia Calva, Alberto Casanova, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Katherine Clark, Ramona Clark, Agnes Cooper, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Jayden Dunn, Nigel Dunn, Alton Duhon, Gwen Files, Cynthia Fortier, Teresa Franklin, Judy Felton-Gardner, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Darren Harris, Jacqueline Holman, Janie Jackson, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Jeanne LeBlanc, Mercedes LeBlanc, Barbara Lindsey, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Vydred Manor, Sister Marianna, Dorothy Okoye, Aliyah Patterson, Wiley R. Pugh, Vickie Race, Andrea Raggette, Doris Rogers, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Chris Simon, Joan Spencer, Dorothy Stanley, Annie Starks, Leila Thomas, Emma Thornton, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, Johnnye Washington, and Alice Williams.